

## Report of Investigation

Title of Investigation:  
Owasippi Boy Scout Fires

Investigation Number:  
774045-01-0213

Report Number:  
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### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Opening of Investigation – Request for Assistance by Muskegon County Sheriff's Office

### SYNOPSIS:

On May 17, 2001 the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department requested assistance from the Bureau of ATF in the investigation of a series of five structure fires that have occurred since September, 1999 at the Owasippi Boy Scout Camp, Muskegon, Michigan. The latest fire occurred during the early morning hours of May 15, 2001.

### NARRATIVE:

1. On May 17, 2001 Detective Terry Leonard, Muskegon County Sheriff's Department, Muskegon, Michigan contacted SA/CFI Mike R. Marquardt, ATF, Grand Rapids, Michigan and requested assistance in the investigation of a series of five fires at the Owasippi Boy Scout Camp, Muskegon, Michigan. Det. Leonard advised that the latest fire occurred between 12:00am and 7:30am on May 15, 2001. The latest fire was not discovered until it had consumed the dining hall structure of Camp Carlin on the Owasippi Camp grounds. Det. Leonard advised that he conducted an origin and cause fire scene investigation which resulted in an undetermined fire call. Det. Leonard advised that there were numerous confirmed lightning strikes in the area of the structure fire during the time period that the fire occurred. He added however, that his scene investigation revealed that the front door of the structure was open and in the unbolted position at the time of the fire. In addition, several propane tanks located nearby the structure had their valves in the open position. The camp director advised Det. Leonard that the door to the structure should have been closed and bolted and that propane tank valves had been previously closed and not in use. Det. Leonard forwarded SA/CFI Marquardt a copy of his initial scene investigation report. That report will be attached to this ATF report of investigation.
2. As stated earlier, this is the fifth structure fire at the Owasippi Boy Scout Camp since September, 1999. SA/CFI Marquardt and Det. Leonard had previously met, for informational purposes, in December, 2000 and discussed the status of the investigation at that time of the prior four fires. During that meeting, Det. Leonard shared the details of his investigation and background information regarding the Owasippi Boy Scout Camp. The camp is located on approximately 10,000 wooded acres in Muskegon County Michigan. The camp has approximately 237 structures on the property. There are only three individuals who live on site year round. Each of the fires has occurred during the off season when the camp is largely vacant. There have been no witnesses to the fires and the fires are usually

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| Second level reviewer (optional):<br>Michael W. Morrissey | Title:<br>Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Field Division       | Signature: | Date: |

discovered after they are heavily involved or have already consumed the structures involved. Due to the rural area and the delayed reporting, the fire department response to these fires has been unavoidably slow. Det. Leonard has determined that at least three of the structure fires have incendiary causes. The other two fire causes remain undetermined at this time. Det. Leonard does not have any strong leads or suspects at this time.

3. Below is a brief summary of the first four fires under investigation:
4. The first fire occurred on September 24, 1999 in the Blackhawk Camp, Mess Hall. The structure was allegedly poured with gasoline throughout and ignited. Det. Leonard stated however, that the fire did not "take off" and good evidence of the arson was left behind. Det. Leonard has a viable suspect for that fire but no new leads and the suspect refuses to take a polygraph. That suspect has apparently good alibis for his whereabouts at the time of the later fires.
5. The second fire occurred on March 25, 2000 at the camp director's residence. That individual is [REDACTED]. Investigators believe that fire was set on the exterior with the use of black powder or pyrodex. It damaged the second floor and took in the roof. One of the problems is that the evidence has already been disposed of.
6. The third fire occurred on March 27, 2000, again at the [REDACTED] residence. This time it took down the remainder of the structure. Investigators believe that they can rule out a rekindle and that the fire was ignited following an ignitable liquid pour.
7. The fourth fire occurred on September 1, 2000 at the Renker Lodge. The fire destroyed the lodge. Several nearby cabins sustained vandalism damage. Although investigators believe this fire was arson, there was no origin and cause investigation completed at the scene. During the fire fighting operation a piece of heavy equipment was used to assist in extinguishing the fire. Apparently, as a result of that use, a viable scene investigation could not be conducted.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Muskegon County Sheriff's Office-Incident Report #2001-005841-I  
Muskegon County Sheriff's Office – Incident Report # 1999-010378-I

## Report of Investigation

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Owasippe Boy Scout Fires

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### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Response to fire scene – Scene Examination

### SYNOPSIS:

On May 21 and 22, 2001 SA/CFI Mike R. Marquardt, Bureau of ATF, responded to and examined the fire scene at Camp Carlen, Owassipe Boy Scout Reservation, Twin Lakes, Michigan. A fire destroyed the dining hall at Camp Carlen on May 15, 2001. On May 17, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt was contacted by the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department and requested to assist in the investigation.

### NARRATIVE:

1. On May 21 and 22, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt responded to and examined the fire scene at the dining hall at Camp Carlen, Owassipe Boy Scout Reservation, 9900 Russell Road, Twin Lakes, Michigan. A fire had occurred at that location on May 15, 2001. SA/CFI Marquardt was contacted on May 17, 2001 and requested to assist in the follow-up investigation of that fire and four prior fires that have occurred at the Reservation over the past approximately two years. The initial fire scene examination at Camp Carlen was conducted by Detective Terry Leonard, Muskegon County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from David Glotzbach, Fire Inspector, Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department. That investigation resulted in an undetermined fire call.
2. During the scene examination on May 21, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt requested the assistance of ATF Accelerant Detection K-9 Handler Pablo Martinez and his K-9 Rhonda. They examined the fire scene and Rhonda alerted in two separate locations. As a result of those alerts, Detective Leonard obtained additional fire debris samples. SA/CFI Marquardt took photographs of the fire scene. SA/CFI Marquardt conducted interviews with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
3. On May 22, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt returned to the fire scene along with Detective Leonard and Fire Inspector Glotzbach for the purpose of conducting additional scene examination and excavation. On that date, the entire remains of the structure was excavated and further examined. The structure has five sets of double entry/exit doors. Each of these was excavated and examined. Each was confirmed to have been closed and locked at the time of the fire with the exception of the set located near the southeast corner of the structure. That set of doors was unlocked and open at the time of the fire. SA/CFI Marquardt confirmed that there was no electrical or gas service to the

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structure at the time of the fire.

4. SA/CFI Marquardt learned from Detective Leonard that there was a severe thunderstorm with numerous lightning strikes in the area of the Reservation during the early morning hours that the fire occurred. SA/CFI Marquardt has requested a Faultfinder Report through Global Atmospherics Inc. in an attempt to determine whether or not a lightning strike can be ruled out as a cause of this latest fire.
5. On May 22, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt conducted additional interviews including a further interview with [REDACTED]. During these interviews [REDACTED] provided SA/CFI Marquardt with several maps of the area; blueprints of the burned structure; several typewritten reports he has completed reference all of the fires at the reservation; and numerous pre-fire photographs of the structures located throughout the reservation, to include interior and exterior pre-fire photographs of the latest structure that burned.
6. SA/CFI Marquardt will complete separate reports of interview and an ATF, Certified Fire Investigator, Origin & Cause report reference the Camp Carlen structure fire that occurred on May 15, 2000.
7. This investigation is continuing.



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### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

### Interview of [REDACTED]

### SYNOPSIS:

On May 21, 2001 SA/CFI Mike R. Marquardt, Bureau of ATF, interviewed [REDACTED] at the fire scene at Camp Carlen, Owasippe Boy Scout Reservation, Twin Lakes, Michigan. A fire destroyed the dining hall at Camp Carlen on May 15, 2001. [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED].

### NARRATIVE:

1. On May 21, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt interviewed [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] He stated that he usually works Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. He also works on Saturday nights. He added that his work hours vary from week to week. [REDACTED] stated that he drives a [REDACTED]. He has had this vehicle for approximately three weeks.
2. [REDACTED] identified his family members as his father, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that his [REDACTED].
3. [REDACTED] stated that he moved from [REDACTED]. He stated that he lived in [REDACTED]. He stated that he was happy to transfer with his parents to [REDACTED]. He stated that he did not have any real friendships develop in the time he was in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that his ultimate goal is to live and work as a teacher in [REDACTED].
4. [REDACTED] stated that he does work on the reservation grounds on occasion, helping his dad with odd jobs around the

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- camp. He stated that he has only learned how to get around the main areas of the reservation. He stated that he usually drives his car or a truck around camp and usually has someone with him. He stated that the reservation does have a 4 wheeler but he has not been allowed to use it since November, 2000 when he had an accident with it. He stated that he was riding the 4 wheeler and ran into a rope and since, his parents have not allowed him to use it.
5. [REDACTED] explained that on the night prior to the fire, May 14, 2001 he had a band concert at the high school from approximately 7:00pm to 10:30pm. [REDACTED] stated that he plays the tuba in the band. [REDACTED] stated that after the concert he drove his girlfriend, [REDACTED], to her house and dropped her off. Her house is located at [REDACTED]. He stated that from there, he drove directly home. He estimated that he arrived home at approximately 10:30pm to 10:45pm. He stated that he then got ready for bed and went directly to bed.
6. [REDACTED] stated that on the following date, May 15, 2001 he got up and left the house for school at approximately 6:15am. He stated that he picked up his friend [REDACTED], also a junior at the high school, and then arrived at the school at approximately 6:30am. [REDACTED] explained that he goes to school early because he has a "0" hour. He stated that his first hour begins at approximately 7:40am. [REDACTED] stated that he learned of the fire when his father called him at the school and advised him of it. [REDACTED] stated that he left the school at around 4<sup>th</sup> hour and returned home. [REDACTED] stated that he then went from his residence to the fire scene at Camp Carlen. [REDACTED] stated that he visited the fire scene because he was curious. He stated that since they had the fire at their residence he has been very emotional and curious about the fires. He added that he just feels like he needs to visit and see the fire damage.
7. SA/CFI Marquardt questioned [REDACTED] as to the last time he was in or around the dining hall of Camp Carlen. [REDACTED] initially responded that he has never been inside the dining hall. He then stated that he does recall being in the dining hall last summer, one time, when he helped in delivering and unloading a stove into the kitchen of the dining hall. [REDACTED] stated that the last time he was near the hall was approximately one week prior to the fire when he and several other friends/students were clearing brush down the road behind Camp Carlen. [REDACTED] stated that he recalls that [REDACTED], were with him.
8. SA/CFI Marquardt asked [REDACTED] how he believes the fire started. [REDACTED] responded that his father told him on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, that the fire was started with a "propellant" on a serving table. Upon questioning, [REDACTED] stated that he believes the fire started around 11:00pm at night. He stated that he basis that estimate upon his observations of the fire damage at the building and he believes the building burned for an extended period of time. [REDACTED] stated that the only ignitable liquid that he has access to is mixed fuel that is used in the lawn mowers. He stated that he does not have access to any of the fuel stored in the maintenance sheds for the camps.
9. [REDACTED] stated that he did not start nor was he involved in starting the fire at Camp Carlen. [REDACTED] stated that he has no reason to start a fire. [REDACTED] added that he did not start any of the fires at the Owassippe Reservation. He also added that he was in [REDACTED] with his friend [REDACTED] at the time his house on the reservation was burned. [REDACTED] stated that he does not know who started any of the fires.
10. SA/CFI Marquardt was advised previous to the interview by Detective Leonard that an anonymous tip to the silent observer tip line provided [REDACTED] name as allegedly being involved in starting the fires. The tip information alleged that [REDACTED] was bragging at school that he had started the fires. SA/CFI Marquardt asked [REDACTED] if he has ever bragged at school about setting the fires. [REDACTED] responded that he has never bragged to anyone about setting the fires. [REDACTED] stated that he is willing to submit to a polygraph examination regarding the fires. [REDACTED] stated that he has never set any fire anywhere with the exception of igniting some magazines on fire with matches while playing with his friends when he lived in [REDACTED].

11. [REDACTED] indicated that he suspects that the fires are being started by the former [REDACTED]. He stated that his whole family suspects that [REDACTED] is involved. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] works for [REDACTED] Corporation and lives in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] added that he knows of [REDACTED] through [REDACTED] ex-wife, [REDACTED], who is a summer camp ranger at the reservation. [REDACTED] added that a psychic friend of the family identified an individual who is starting the fires and that description fits what he knows of [REDACTED].

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### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Interview of [REDACTED]

### SYNOPSIS:

On May 22 and 23, 2001 SA/CFI Mike R. Marquardt, Bureau of ATF, interviewed [REDACTED] at the fire scene at Camp Carlen, Owasippe Boy Scout Reservation, Twin Lakes, Michigan. A fire destroyed the dining hall at Camp Carlen on May 15, 2001. Robert Pruden is the Owasippe Scout Reservation Property Manager and is also the individual who reported the fire to law enforcement.

### NARRATIVE:

- On May 22 and 23, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt interviewed [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] is the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] stated that he obtained his [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at that same time. Prior to accepting his current position, [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED]  
advised that prior to holding that position, he worked for the Boy Scouts in several different capacities and locations over a period of approximately 25 years. He stated that his last position with the Boy Scouts had been as the [REDACTED] Prior to that position he held a position in the national office of the Boy Scouts located in Dallas, Texas. Pruden provided SA/CFI Marquardt with a copy of his resume' indicating his prior positions and locations.
- [REDACTED] provided a detailed description according to his best recollection of his activities the day prior to and during the hours leading up to his discovery of and reporting of the fire on May 15, 2001 at Camp Carlen. [REDACTED] stated that during the day of May 14, 2001 he conducted his duties as property manager. He stated that at some point later in the day he visited the post office and bank in town and spent time doing paperwork in his office at the administrative center. In the evening he went to the maintenance garage and worked on painting signs. [REDACTED] also recalled that he spent additional time at his office on the internet doing research for work at the Reneker building.
- [REDACTED] stated that he returned to his residence at approximately 9:15pm to 9:30pm that night. [REDACTED] recalled that

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his son, [REDACTED] had to perform in a band concert at school that evening. [REDACTED] recalled that both his wife and son returned home from the concert sometime before 10:00pm or 11:00pm and they were all in bed by 11:00pm. [REDACTED] stated that he woke up at approximately 2:00am, as usual, and used the bathroom. He stated that he immediately returned to bed and awoke in the morning at approximately 6:15am. [REDACTED] stated that he left the house at approximately 6:30am and as is his usual routine, he drove to the Westco Gas Station in Whitehall to purchase a 44 ounce pepsi. He then returned to the reservation and was approaching the maintenance building when he received a call on his two-way radio from [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] advised him, "You need to come to Camp Carlen. There is a problem." [REDACTED] stated that since they had very heavy rains through the night he thought that [REDACTED] was talking about the road being washed out.

4. [REDACTED] stated that he drove up to Camp Carlen and met with [REDACTED] stated that he immediately observed the fire damage. [REDACTED] stated that he immediately drove back to his house and called "911" to report the fire. He advised the dispatcher that fire trucks were not needed as the fire was already out. [REDACTED] requested that Detective Leonard be contacted to respond to the scene. [REDACTED] stated that he did not go on or near the fire scene as he did not want to disturb anything. He stated that he has been through this fire situation now several times and he has learned not to go onto the scene. [REDACTED] added that Harris did drive past the scene on the road but they were both careful to protect the scene. [REDACTED] stated that they both waited until Detective Leonard arrived on scene to examine it.
5. [REDACTED] stated that his residence is approximately ¼ mile away, "as the crow flies", from Camp Carlen. [REDACTED] stated that during the night he did not see nor smell anything unusual. [REDACTED] stated that he and others at the camp have been trying to maintain a good watch of the area since this is now the fifth fire they have had on the boy scout reservation. [REDACTED] stated that he was last near Camp Carlen on May 14 around 8:30pm when he checked to be certain the main gate to Camp Carlen was secured shut and locked. He stated that he did not go into the camp at that time. He stated that he last drove by the dining hall at Camp Carlen on Sunday afternoon prior to the fire. [REDACTED] stated that he was last inside the Camp Carlen dining hall approximately one week prior to the fire. He stated that he was inside measuring tables and when he left he made certain all doors were shut and secured with their locking mechanisms. He added that he departed out the doors at the northwest corner. He stated that those doors are the only ones that have a keyed lock that can be opened and locked from the exterior.
6. [REDACTED] stated that it is not necessary for someone who knows the scout reservation well to use the main road and entrance gate to gain access to Camp Carlen. He stated that there are numerous two-track roads throughout the reservation that provide access and travel routes around the reservation.
7. [REDACTED] stated that the reservation has two full-time employees, himself and [REDACTED]. He stated that there is one part-time employee, [REDACTED]. He added that there are also two volunteers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who work on the reservation for a couple of months during the off-season and then through the summer. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] is a former employee of the Chicago Fire Department. He apparently built ladders for them. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] works at the camp for approximately six weeks during the Spring and Fall and otherwise lives in Florida. [REDACTED] added that there are approximately 65 Hunt Club volunteers. He described that these volunteers are registered in the conservation club and work approximately 40 hours doing conservation type work in exchange for access to the reservation for hunting privileges. If they don't complete their 40 hours of work they must pay \$400 to maintain their privileges. He stated that this program has been operating for approximately six years.
8. [REDACTED] briefly discussed his knowledge of the financial condition of the Chicago Area Boy Scouts Council. [REDACTED] stated that during his tenure with the Scouts he has been exposed to several different councils around the country and he has "never seen one run financially so poorly." [REDACTED] stated that this council is in poor financial condition.

He stated that last year the council took a \$750,000 loss. He stated that all money that is raised by the Owissipe reservation, through sale of land or forest products, is kept by the council in Chicago. He stated that it does not seem to him that any of the money is put back into this reservation. [REDACTED] stated that he has no idea what has happened with any of the insurance proceeds from the other four fires that have occurred on the reservation since 1999. He stated that the council members in Chicago will not tell him where the proceeds are going. He stated that they have advised him that none of the money will be put back into the reservation until the "fire bug" is caught. He added that of the buildings burned, only the Camp Blackhawk dining hall has been repaired. He estimated that those repairs totaled under \$60,000. [REDACTED] also added that none of his paychecks have ever "bounced" but his paychecks have been late.

9. [REDACTED] stated that after the camp suffered a couple fires, he was advised to document through photographs several of the structures on the reservation. Pruden stated that in mid to late October, 2000 he had former [REDACTED] take both interior and exterior digital photographs of the structures on the reservation. [REDACTED] provided SA/CFI Marquardt with a copy of those photographs contained on a Zip disk.
10. [REDACTED] stated that as a result of an accident on Thursday, May 3, 2001, the Camp Carlen dining hall did not have any electrical power to the structure prior to and at the time of the fire. He stated that he and [REDACTED] were using a backhoe tractor to remove a flag pole near the dining hall when he accidentally dug up and severed the underground electrical service line to the structure. [REDACTED] stated that they had not repaired the electrical service to the structure since that time.
11. [REDACTED] supplied SA/CFI Marquardt with several typed documents and photographs he had completed regarding his investigation into the five fires at the reservation. Those documents will be attached to this report for further review. Included in those documents is a list created by Pruden of his potential suspects in the setting of those fires. [REDACTED] also supplied SA/CFI Marquardt with a copy of a set of old blue prints for the Camp Carlen dining hall and with several large maps that include the Owissipe Boy Scout Reservation land.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Resume' of [REDACTED]  
Documents and Photographs provided by [REDACTED].

## Report of Investigation

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### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Polygraph Examination of [REDACTED]

### SYNOPSIS:

On June 12, 2001 [REDACTED] voluntarily submitted to a polygraph examination conducted by the Bureau of ATF regarding the May 15, 2001 fire at the Camp Carlen Dining Hall, Owasippe Scout Reservation, Twin Lake, Michigan. Upon completing the examination, Special Agent Examiner Eduardo Fernandez concluded that [REDACTED] was being truthful during the examine when he answered "No" to the questions regarding his alleged involvement in starting the fire.

### NARRATIVE:

1. On June 12, 2001 [REDACTED] voluntarily submitted to a polygraph examination conducted by ATF, Special Agent/Examiner Eduardo Fernandez at the ATF Grand Rapids, Michigan Field Office. During the examination [REDACTED] answered questions and denied any involvement in starting the fire at the Camp Carlen Dining Hall located at the Owasippe Scout Reservation, Twin Lake, Michigan. Following the examination, SA Fernandez advised that based on the examination he believes that [REDACTED] is being truthful in his responses to the questions.

### ATTACHMENTS:

Copy of SA Fernandez Polygraph Examination Report dated 6/15/2001.

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## Report of Investigation

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### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Receipt of Copies of Email Documents from [REDACTED]

### SYNOPSIS:

In June, 2001 [REDACTED] provided ATF Special Agent Mike R. Marquardt with copies of Email correspondence between individuals associated with the Owassipi Scout Reservation and related to the May 15, Camp Carlen Dining Hall fire.

### NARRATIVE:

1. In June, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt received via U.S. Postal mail copies of the text of email correspondence between individuals associated with the Owasippe Scout Reservation. These documents include one titled "The Scarlet Sassafras" and one titled "The Sounding Board." The Scarlet Sassafras apparently originates from [REDACTED]. These documents contain email regarding the apparent status of the law enforcement fire investigation and other activities at the Scout Reservation.

### ATTACHMENTS:

Copies of Email dated June 17, 2001

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|
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## Report of Investigation

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### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Silent Observer Tip – Muskegon County Sheriff's Department  
Contact [REDACTED]

### SYNOPSIS:

On July 28, 2001 the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department, Silent Observer, received information alleging members of the [REDACTED] family located on [REDACTED] were involved in several B&Es and setting fires to structures on the Owasippe Scout Reservation, Twin Lakes, Michigan.

### NARRATIVE:

1. On July 28, 2001 the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department, Silent Observer, received information alleging members of the [REDACTED], were involved in several B&Es and setting fires to structures on the Owasippe Scout Reservation, Twin Lakes, Michigan.
2. On August 8, 2001 that information was passed on to Fire Inspector Dave Glotsbach at the Muskegon Township Fire Department who in turn advised SA/CFI Marquardt, ATF, of the tip. The Sheriff's Department advised FI Glotsbach that the tip was made by [REDACTED]. According to the Sheriff's Department, [REDACTED] advised that his two nephews, identified as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ages [REDACTED] may be involved in setting fire to the structures on the Owasippe Scout Reservation. The Muskegon County Sheriff's Department also provided a copy of Incident Report No. [REDACTED], dated 7/29/2001, regarding the Sheriff's Department response to [REDACTED] reference a domestic type dispute between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Other names mentioned in that report are [REDACTED].
3. On August 14, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt and FI Glotsbach located and made contact with [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] the residence of [REDACTED] telephone number [REDACTED]. The purpose of contacting [REDACTED] was to obtain additional information reference the tip he allegedly provided on the Scout Camp fires. [REDACTED] is further identified as a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he has been living at the [REDACTED] residence since July 6, 2001.

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| Second level reviewer (optional):<br>Michael W. Morrissey | Title:<br>Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Field Division       | Signature: | Date: |

4. [REDACTED] advised that he did not call in any tip or provide any information reference alleged B&Es or fires at the Owassippe Scout Camp. [REDACTED] stated that he gets along well with his two nephews, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he is not aware of and has not heard about any fires at the Scout Reservation.
5. SA/CFI Marquardt asked [REDACTED] who might call in a tip to silent observer and falsely identify himself as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] immediately responded that his half brother, [REDACTED] probably placed the call and used his ([REDACTED]) name. [REDACTED] stated that he, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are currently in a dispute with [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] recently got [REDACTED] fired from his job at the [REDACTED] further identified [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED] set, with blonde hair and a mustache. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] lives in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] is frequently at his parent's home located at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] drives a White Dodge Caravan and he works at the [REDACTED] Michigan.

ATTACHMENTS:

Copy of Silent Observer Tip #446  
Copy of Incident Report #2001-010147-I



## Report of Investigation

Title of Investigation:  
Owasippe Boy Scout Fires

Investigation Number:  
774045-01-0213

Report Number:  
8

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Contact with Muskegon Central Dispatch Regarding Silent Observer Tip #446

### SYNOPSIS:

On August 17, 2001 ATF Special Agent Mike Marquardt and Fire Investigator Dave Glotzbach contacted the Muskegon Central Dispatch, Muskegon, Michigan to obtain additional information reference Silent Observer Tip #446. That tip alleged that the [REDACTED] Family of [REDACTED] may be involved in perpetrating B&Es and setting fire to structures on the Owasippe Boy Scout Reservation. SA Marquardt obtained an audio copy of the tip in order to obtain the exact information left by the caller of the tip.

### NARRATIVE:

1. On August 17, 2001 SA Marquardt and FI Glotzbach obtained an audio copy of the Muskegon Central Dispatch Tip #446. After listening to the audio tip, it was determined that the tip was actually made by an anonymous caller who refused to leave his name. The tip actually identified [REDACTED], and his two nephews, [REDACTED] respectively, as the subjects involved in possible B&Es of cabins and of possibly setting fire to a cabin at the Owasippe Scout Camp. The tip further identifies that the unknown caller's grandson had heard the [REDACTED] bragging that they had burned a cabin at the Scout Camp and B&E'd cabins located on the White River.
2. On August 17, 2001 SA Marquardt obtained background information on each of the [REDACTED] identified in the Silent Observer Tip. This information includes NCIC Criminal History Checks on each subject; a list of all known contacts with each of these subjects by the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department; and a photograph of each subject. Of the three subjects, [REDACTED] has an extensive criminal history to include arrests and convictions in [REDACTED].

### ATTACHMENTS:

Criminal History, Contact Sheet and Photograph of [REDACTED]  
Criminal History, Contact Sheet and Photograph of [REDACTED]  
Criminal History, Contact Sheet and Photograph of [REDACTED]

|                                                           |                                                                 |            |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Prepared by:<br>Michael R. Marquardt                      | Title:<br>Special Agent, Grand Rapids I Field Office            | Signature: | Date: |
| Authorized by:<br>Mark T. Hady                            | Title:<br>Resident Agent in Charge, Grand Rapids I Field Office | Signature: | Date: |
| Second level reviewer (optional):<br>Michael W. Morrissey | Title:<br>Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Field Division       | Signature: | Date: |



## Report of Investigation

Title of Investigation:  
Owasippe Boy Scout Fires

Investigation Number:  
774045-01-0213

Report Number:  
9

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Interview of [REDACTED]

### SYNOPSIS:

On August 20, 2001 SA/CFI Mike R. Marquardt, Bureau of ATF, and Fire Inspector Dave Glotzbach, Muskegon Township Fire Department, interviewed [REDACTED] at his place of employment regarding [REDACTED]. Williams is a stepbrother to [REDACTED] and is currently involved in a family dispute with him and other members of the family.

### NARRATIVE:

1. On August 20, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt and FI Glotzbach interviewed [REDACTED] at his place of employment, the [REDACTED] is further identified as a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he lives at that location with his wife and children. [REDACTED] stated that he does not have a home telephone. [REDACTED] stated that he is a step-brother to [REDACTED] and an uncle to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] live at [REDACTED] with their father [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] works at the [REDACTED] located in Whitehall, Michigan.
2. [REDACTED] stated that until recently, [REDACTED] was also employed at the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] worked there for approximately two months. [REDACTED] stated however, that [REDACTED] was fired and arrested for theft from the Hotel. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] stole numerous items to include tools, coffee pots, a vacuum and money from the cash register. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] is a thief and always in trouble. [REDACTED] stated that as a result of the theft from the Hotel, he ([REDACTED]) may have to testify in court against [REDACTED] regarding the theft. Due to that, [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED], his other stepbrother [REDACTED], and his nephew [REDACTED].
3. [REDACTED], have made threats against him and his family. [REDACTED] stated that as of July 29, 2001, during an incident with [REDACTED] threatened to burn [REDACTED] house or van. [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] threatened that he would beat [REDACTED] kids if [REDACTED] testified against [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that just recently his van got "sugared" and he believes [REDACTED] is behind that action. [REDACTED] explained that someone (he believes [REDACTED]) poured sugar in the gas tank of his van. [REDACTED] stated that the engine is ruined as

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Michael R. Marquardt

Title:  
Special Agent, Grand Rapids I Field Office

Signature:

Date:

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Mark T. Hady

Title:  
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Signature:

Date:

Second level reviewer (optional):  
Michael W. Morrissey

Title:  
Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Field Division

Signature:

Date:

a result.

4. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] formerly dated a white female known only to him ([REDACTED]) as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that they dated for approximately five or six months but broke up approximately two months prior to this interview. [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as approximately [REDACTED] in height and weighing approximately [REDACTED] pounds. [REDACTED] stated that she is approximately [REDACTED] of age and lives with her husband in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that she drives a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] told him that she heard [REDACTED] say that he and [REDACTED] broke into a cabin on the Owassippe Scout Reservation, stole some items and then burned the cabin.
5. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] bragged directly to him that he had broken into cabins on the Owassippe Scout Reservation and stole items. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] did not mention anything about setting fire to the cabin. [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as somewhat "mentally slow" with a very "hot" temper. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was present during the conversation where [REDACTED] was bragging about the theft. [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] previously worked at the Owassippe Scout Reservation for a period of approximately one week during the summer months of 2000 or possibly 1999.
6. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] previously lived in [REDACTED] and moved back to West Michigan in approximately January, 2000. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] would know the area and woods around the Owassippe Reservation because while growing up, he ([REDACTED]) used to ride his motorcycle around the entire area. [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] did some bow hunting for deer on the Owassippe Camp last year.
7. [REDACTED] stated that he does recall that [REDACTED] used to be involved in setting fires. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was around 10 years old when he got caught setting a fire at a trailer park in Rothbury.



## Report of Investigation

Title of Investigation:  
Owasippe Boy Scout Fires

Investigation Number:  
774045-01-0213

Report Number:  
10

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Interview of [REDACTED]

### SYNOPSIS:

On August 20, 2001 SA/CFI Mike R. Marquardt, Bureau of ATF, and Fire Inspector Dave Glotzbach, Muskegon Township Fire Department, interviewed [REDACTED] at his residence regarding [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] and has been and is currently involved in a family dispute with him. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] has been a problem his whole life and is always in trouble with the law. Also present during the interview was [REDACTED].

### NARRATIVE:

1. On August 20, 2001 SA/CFI Marquardt and FI Glotzbach interviewed [REDACTED] at his residence located at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is further identified as a [REDACTED], DOB [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he is the step-father of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that they address [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] has been in trouble his entire life. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] is a thief and has been arrested and in jail numerous times in several different areas of the country. [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] was recently arrested and is currently on bail on a charge of theft from the [REDACTED].
2. [REDACTED] stated that he has recently heard rumors that [REDACTED] and his nephew [REDACTED] were involved in perpetrating B&Es of cabins on the White River. He stated that they also allegedly burned these cabins. [REDACTED] stated that he is not aware of [REDACTED] being involved in setting fires prior to hearing these rumors. [REDACTED] stated that he does not know much about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] brother [REDACTED] even though they are his grandchildren. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] works at the [REDACTED] in Whitehall. [REDACTED] stated that he does know that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have had problems with the DNR in the past due to violating hunting laws.
3. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] has lived in [REDACTED] and recalls that he returned to Michigan in January, 2000. [REDACTED] stated that since that time, [REDACTED] has lived in this area. [REDACTED] stated that upon [REDACTED] return, he brought back a girlfriend named [REDACTED] whom he allegedly picked up on the road during his travel back to Michigan. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] has subsequently been arrested and convicted in March, 2000 for theft of [REDACTED].

|                                                           |                                                                 |            |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Prepared by:<br>Michael R. Marquardt                      | Title:<br>Special Agent, Grand Rapids I Field Office            | Signature: | Date: |
| Authorized by:<br>Mark T. Hady                            | Title:<br>Resident Agent in Charge, Grand Rapids I Field Office | Signature: | Date: |
| Second level reviewer (optional):<br>Michael W. Morrissey | Title:<br>Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Field Division       | Signature: | Date: |